



## Aruba has four generations of fans from Stockton, California

Doris and Gerald Grilliot admit it is a long way from Stockton, California to Aruba, but they have happily made the journey annually for the last twenty-five years to spend two weeks in their beloved Aruba. Originally owners at the Casa Del Mar timeshare resort, they have called the Renaissance Beach Tower their “home away from home” since it opened its doors twenty years ago.

At that time, they introduced Doris’ parents, Frank and Norma Salvetti to Aruba, which immediately, according to his family, became Frank’s “favorite place on the planet.” Norma recounts how her husband, who passed away last year, loved to walk through the town and watch all the new buildings going up, a part of the tourism boom in Aruba. He was a construction engineer, and enjoyed seeing the changes and growth of island.

This year Norma returns with Doris and Gerald, along with a new addition to the family, Zachary, only four months old. He is the child of Andrea, Doris’ daughter, who is here with her husband Zeke, and two-year-old daughter Paige. That makes four generations of this family enjoying their annual outing in Aruba, along with Andrea’s sister Regina and her husband Shane. Andrea and Regina have been regular visitors to Aruba since their early teens, and express “we feel as if we grew up here.”

The entire family agrees they love being located in Oranjestad, which makes it easy to walk to some of their favorite restaurants, such as the Driftwood and Grill House. The diversity of ages demands for diverse daytime activities, but they make it a policy to always gather together for dinner, a family ritual. Norma’s daughter Francis will join them at the end of the week to swell their ranks, and her other daughter Janice is also an owner at the Renaissance along with Andrea, and they switch back and forth each year to vacation on the island.

Doris and Gerald have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors to Aruba by the ATA, and with the rest of their family, truly define the title. As much as they love to make vacationing in Aruba an annual family affair, islanders love to welcome them back each year.